

the motives and proceedings of other members. That gentleman had alluded to certain Eastern Shore members, who had abandoned the interests of their constituents. Mr. G. supposed that this charge was intended to be made more particularly against himself, because he had presented the apportionment bill, which had been adopted by the Convention. He would now show that the gentleman from Kent and himself had voted for propositions which were so nearly alike on the subject of representation, that neither had much reason to find fault with the other for a difference of opinion. He was satisfied that the gentleman from Kent, who was always liberal, except in moments of excitement, would after a little reflection, be satisfied with the proposition which he now so fiercely assailed. According to that proposition, the counties of the State were allowed a representation in proportion to the whole number of their inhabitants; and the city of Baltimore was entitled to four more Delegates than were allowed to the most populous county. This apportionment gave ten members to Baltimore, though his bill, as originally submitted, limited the number to nine. Mr. Schley's bill, which had been previously offered and rejected, provided for a representation according to gross population, but limited the Delegates of Baltimore city to the number allowed to the largest county. When Mr. Schley's bill, after being rejected, was again under consideration, the gentleman from Kent moved to amend it by increasing the number of Baltimore Delegates to eight—that is, to two more than were allowed to the largest county. The difference between Mr. Schley's bill, as proposed to be amended by the gentleman from Kent, and his own bill, as originally submitted, was simply this, that one allowed eight and the other nine to the city of Baltimore. This difference of one Delegate was increased to two by the vote of the Convention, in which he concurred, because it appeared to be the only means of settling a question which was surrounded with difficulties. His [Mr. G's] bill secured to the slave counties, in all time to come, the important advantage of being represented according to their whole population; and he could not perceive that the slight difference between the gentleman from Kent and himself was a sufficient reason for arraigning the Eastern Shore members who voted with the majority of the Convention. It was this near approach to an agreement of opinion that had induced him, when he presented his bill, to say that he thought there was no necessity for a conference; and that he really believed that the gentleman from Kent and himself, if they had met for the purpose of a compromise, could have come to an agreement on the subject of representation. At all events, their opinions, as shown by their votes, were so nearly alike that he could not perceive how the gentleman from Kent could charge him with having abandoned the interests of the Eastern Shore.

Mr. CHAMBERS said, if it was not that the most extraordinary events were daily witnessed by us, he might have expressed surprise; but really, sir, (said Mr. C.) I have ceased to feel surprise at almost any thing said here. Yet certainly I do

think that amongst the most strange of the strange things here enacted, is the effort of the gentleman from Queen Anne's (Mr. Grason) to prove an agreement between him and myself in the action had here on the representation question. Amongst all the odd things of the day, this effort most certainly rank as "number one"—"distinguish-ed."

Why, sir, let him tell this Convention that midnight darkness reigns and rules under a meridian sun! When that gentleman, and those who acted with him, have driven us—our little band—from every entrenchment—driven us to the wall—headed us off in every attempt to rally—resisted us in every advance—rejected all our proposals, in the downward steps to which they forced us: then to taunt us with an agreement—a concurrence in their assaults upon us! As well may they talk of the agreement and assent of the galley slave to his daily toil, and as well taunt him with willing submission, when with the lash of a task-master at his back, he tugs at the oar to which he is chained.

He who desires to learn my wishes in reference to this question of representation, can be at no loss. Any man who ever knew and has not forgotten his A B C, may find my opinion, spread as large as life, upon our record. There it is, and it does justice to the Eastern Shore. Against that proposition the gentleman's vote was recorded, and yet he gravely says he and I have agreed. It must be that we agreed to differ. Yes, sir, we do differ, and most emphatically in this; that, while by my plan and my vote, I would continue a respectable representation to the Eastern Shore, and prevent its being reduced to something like a cipher; while I have been thus engaged, the gentleman's votes have been directly opposed to mine. But this is but half the story. The gentleman has not only voted against my scheme, but he has presented one of his own—a plan, which was the sole, exclusive, deliberate product of the gentleman's own mind, has been voluntarily presented by himself. It was no creature of a committee, in which conflicting opinions had been compromised; it did not originate from any instructions of this body, or from any extraneous influence, to which official duty required him to conform. Not at all. He himself, *ex mero motu*, concocted it and presented it, and there it is on the record, and there it will be, for future inspection and judgment by those whom it affects.

The proposition submitted by the minority of the committee, of which I was one, gives the Eastern Shore twenty-eight members, in a house of eighty-six, being nearly one-third; and the proposition of the gentleman gives our Shore twenty-one members, in a house of seventy-five, being very little more than a fourth. My proposition leaves the representation from the Eastern Shore precisely what it now is; that of the gentleman reduces it one-fourth.

Is this agreement? But this is not all. We have had published some twelve to fifteen different schemes, and amongst them all there is not to be found, I believe, one from any quarter which gives to our shore a smaller proportion of members of the House of Delegates, than the